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cont.
2. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said steroid is Δ^5 -androsterone-3 β -acetoxy-ol-7,17-dione.
 3. (Amended) The method of either one of claims 1 and 2 wherein said patient is human.
 4. (Amended) The method of claim 3, wherein said patient is afflicted with osteoarthritis.
 5. (Amended) The method of claim 3, wherein said patient is afflicted with fibromyalgia.
 6. (Amended) The method of claim 3, wherein said patient is afflicted with rheumatoid arthritis.
 7. (Amended) The method of claim 3, wherein said patient is afflicted with arthritis-related tissue inflammation.
 8. (Amended) The method of claim 3, wherein said patient is diagnosed with osteoarthritis.
 9. (Amended) The method of claim 3, wherein said patient is diagnosed with fibromyalgia.
 10. (Amended) The method of claim 3, wherein said patient is diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis.
 11. (Amended) The method of claim 3, wherein said patient is diagnosed with arthritis-related tissue inflammation.
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Please add the following new claims:

- Sub B1
22. (New) The method of either one of claims 1 and 2, wherein said one or more symptoms of arthritis are selected from the group consisting of tissue inflammation, joint pain, joint stiffness, inability to move a joint normally, nodules, and swelling.
23. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein said patient is afflicted with osteoarthritis.
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24. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein said patient is afflicted with fibromyalgia.
25. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein said patient is afflicted with rheumatoid arthritis.
- Sub B2
26. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein said patient is afflicted with arthritis-related tissue inflammation.
27. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein said patient is diagnosed with osteoarthritis.
28. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein said patient is diagnosed with fibromyalgia.
29. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein said patient is diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis.
30. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein said patient is diagnosed with arthritis-related tissue inflammation.
31. (New) The method of claim 3, wherein said steroid is administered by the route selected from the group consisting of intravenous injection, mucosal administration, oral consumption, ocular administration, subcutaneous injection, and transdermal administration.

- A2
cont.
32. (New) The method of claim 31, wherein said mucosal administration includes routes selected from the group consisting of buccal, endotracheal, inhalation, nasal, pharyngeal, rectal, sublingual and vaginal.
33. (New) A method of treating or preventing inflammation in a patient in need of such treatment or prevention, comprising administering to said patient a steroid selected from the group consisting of Δ^5 -androstene- 3β -ol-7,17-dione and 3β esters thereof, wherein said administration results in amelioration or prevention of one or more symptoms of inflammation.
34. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein said steroid is Δ^5 -androstene- 3β -acetoxy-ol-7,17-dione.
35. (New) The method of either one of claims 33 and 34, wherein said patient is human.
36. (New) The method of claim 35, wherein said one or more symptoms of inflammation are selected from the group consisting of pain, stiffness, warmth, redness and swelling.
37. (New) The method of claim 35, wherein said steroid is administered by the route selected from the group consisting of intravenous injection, mucosal administration, oral consumption, ocular administration, subcutaneous injection, and transdermal administration.
38. (New) The method of claim 37, wherein said mucosal administration includes routes selected from the group